THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The Government has initiated the process of formulation of a new Science and Technology policy for the country. A draft document was prepared for discussion and consultation with a wide cross section of opinion. Views of many scientists, scientific bodies and agencies including institutions dealing with social sciences were taken in formulating the draft. This was also put on the internet for members of public to send their comments. The comments received from different segments have been considered by a high level committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Science and Technology, set up for finalising the policy to enable the final draft to be placed before appropriate levels in the Government for adoption and approval.

Millennium Science and Technology Policy

301. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft Millennium Science and Technology Policy reportedly finalised recently, highlights the loss of an entire generation of talent, an aging pool of scientists, obsolete labs, declining quality of research, poor technology transfer and other inadequacies;

(b) if so, the details of deficiencies observed and the main features of the new policy out line;

(c) the broad framework of corrective steps proposed to attract the best available creative talent and to create the required infrastructure for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) No Millennium Science and Technology Policy has been finalised.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Paid for fixing up time zones

302. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: